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United States Department of Agriculture



**BIKING**

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## **RED SANDSTONE ROAD #700**

**Length:** 10.65 miles (one way)  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Beginning Elevation:** 8,354 feet  
**Elevation Gain:** +1679 feet - 671 feet = +1008 feet

**Trail Use:** Moderate  
**Open To:** XC, Snowshoe, Snowmobile  
**Ending Elevation:** 9362 feet  
**USGS Map(s):** Vail West

**Access from Vail:** Exit I-70 at Vail exit 176 and take the North Frontage Road west to Red Sandstone Road. Turn right and follow to the winter road closure gate and park here. Be aware that there is not a lot of space, however. If full, park at the City Market (2 miles west on North Frontage Road) parking lot and ride the paved bike path to Red Sandstone Road.

**Attractions/Considerations:** This road accesses Piney Lake at the foot of Mount Powell. Since it is such a popular road for motorists, it is advised to do this ride on a weekday, or early morning. The last 1/3 mile of this mapped route is privately owned by Piney River Ranch. Please respect their rules. This map also shows private property about 6 miles up this route. Please respect private property and stay on the designated road through here. The Red Sandstone area consists of 63 miles of roads usable for biking. Excellent views of the Gore and Sawatch Ranges are abundant.

**Trail Highlights:** From the start of the dirt, follow the road about 2.7 miles to an intersection with the Lost Lake Road (#786) and continue left. (Lost Lake is another popular bike route that does not experience nearly as much auto traffic). The road descends for 1.5 miles and then begins to climb again. At mile 5.5, you can take a break at Indian Meadows and enjoy the view of the Gore Range. At mile 6.1, you will pass Red and White Mountain Road on the left, and at mile 6.5 you will reach another intersection and parking area. Here the Moniger Road (#701) will split to the left and the Lost Lake Trailhead will be on your right by the parking area. Stay right and begin switchbacks down into the Piney Valley. Continue to Piney Crossing at mile 9.1 where the road crosses the Piney River then reaches one last intersection. Meadow Creek continues straight, but turn right to reach Piney Lake. Make sure to respect any signs when reaching the private property just before the lake. Enjoy the peace and beauty here or take a hike up the Upper Piney River Trail, but remember that the lake is surrounded by the Eagles Nest Wilderness and is closed to bikes. On the return you will have a few climbs, but it is mostly an easy ride with views of the Vail Mountain Ski Area. Be careful of vehicles at corners.

**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** Mountain biking provides the opportunity to “get away from it all.” Careless operation of your bike can cause damage and may result in closing of areas to mountain bike enthusiasts. Respect the environment and other trail users. By using common sense and common courtesy, what is available today will be here to enjoy tomorrow:

- \* **Always stay on designated roads and trails;** off-trail riding is not permitted on the White River National Forest.
- \* Obtain a map of the area you wish to explore and determine which areas are open for use.
- \* Avoid trails that are obviously wet and muddy to avoid trail damage.
- \* When descending, apply enough brake to maintain control, but avoid locking your bike's wheels, which can start a rut, leading to erosion.
- \* Cross streams at fording points only.
- \* Wilderness areas are managed to maintain their primitive character and to provide opportunities for solitude. These designated areas are solely for non-mechanized travel—access is restricted to foot and horseback only. Sorry, no OHVs or bicycles.
- \* For tips on techniques and responsible recreation, visit [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org).

**PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! TREAD LIGHTLY!!**

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your trip.



